

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

ACDA-05 IO-10 /073 W

----- 070129

R 050500Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5124

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9164

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY ROMULO ON U.S.-GOP RELATIONSHIP

1. SUMMARY: IN SPEECH TO PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY CADETS
JULY 4, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROMULO CLAIMED U.S.
BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES TENDED TO RETARD GOP HOPES FOR
ACCOMMODATION WITH COMMUNIST POWERS IN ASIA AND TO DIMINISH
FILIPINO CREDIBILITY WITH OTHER SEA NEIGHBORS AS WELL AS WITH
NONALIGNED COUNTRIES WITH WHOM GOP SEEKING TO FORGE NEW AND
STRONGER LINKS. ROMULO SAID GOP WOULD PRESENT ITS PROPOSALS
(PRESUMABLY ON BASES), IN "DUE COURSE" AND ASSURED THESE
PROPOSALS WOULD RECONCILE BEST LONG TERM INTERESTS OF U.S.
AND GOP. SECRETARY STRESSED NEW FOUNDATION OF MUTUAL RESPECT
ENJOINED "RECOGNITION OF THE INALIENABLE REQUIREMENTS OF
PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY OF WHICH THE U.S. IS
MORE THAN AMPLY AWARE." ROMULO'S REMARKS ON U.S.-GOP
RELATIONSHIP CAME AT END OF SPEECH REVIEWING RECENT CHANGES
IN GOP FOREIGN POLICY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DEVELOP-
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MENT OF ASEAN AND CHANGES IN GOP RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNIST

STATES PARTICULARLY PRC. SECRETARY REITERATED GOP LINE THAT MARCOS HAD FIRM GUARANTEES FROM PRC INCLUDING CHAIRMAN MAO THERE WOULD BE NO PRC INTERFERENCE (READ SUPPORT FOR NPA) IN GOP AFFAIRS. ROMULO'S COMMENTS ON BASES KEEPS ISSUE ALIVE AND ADD NOTHING TO MARCOS' STATEMENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON BASES ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE OCTOBER. IN TALK WITH CODEL MATSUNAGA JULY 4 MARCOS EMPHASIZED HE WANTS U.S. TO RETAIN BASES BUT THEY MUST BE "FILIPPINO." END SUMMARY

2. SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROMULO GAVE FILIPINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY SPEECH BEFORE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY CADETS IN BAGUIO JULY 4. HE BEGAN BY NOTING GOP "REASSESSING" ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. WHICH BOUND TO CAUSE SOME AGONY AND PAIN ON BOTH SIDES. ROMULO WAS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, REASSESSMENT WOULD USHER IN NEW PERIOD OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH WOULD LEAD TO STRONGER AND MORE SOLID FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUING U.S.-GOP FRIENDSHIP.

3. ROMULO REVIEWED WORLD EVENTS OVER LAST FEW DECADES EMPHASIZING EMERGENCE OF POLYCENTRISM AND SUBSTITUTION OF NATIONAL INTEREST FOR IDEOLOGY. HE ADVERTED TO RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA AND STATED SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY WAS "CENTRAL POLITICAL FACT" IN ASIA. THIS HAD MADE REVIEW OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY MATTER OF SURVIVAL. ROMULO THEN DEALT WITH THREE FACTORS AFFECTING GOP A) ASEAN, B) RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES AND C) RELATIONS WITH U.S. ROMULO SAID ASEAN MUST SEEK A NEW BASIS FOR STABILITY IN TERMS OF EXPANDED REGIONAL COOPERATION AND POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION SINCE THE PREVIOUS STABILITY IN GREAT POWER RELATIONS IN THE AREA WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED TO ASEAN'S EVOLUTION WAS NOW IN DOUBT.

4. ROMULO THEN CONSIDERED GOP'S NEW RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES PARTICULARLY PRC. THIS PART OF HIS ADDRESS CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF CITATIONS FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF MARCOS. IN VIEW OF HIS AUDIENCE, ROMULO STRESSED PRC "ASSURANCES" EVIDENT IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 9 AND PERSONAL ASSURANCES TO MARCOS BY CHAIRMAN MAO THAT PRC WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL PHILIPPINE

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AFFAIRS.

5. ROMULO PREFACED HIS REMARKS ON U.S.-GOP RELATIONS BY STATING GOP UNDERSTANDS WHY U.S. IN VIEW OF ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS FINDS IT NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW PARTIALLY FROM ASIA AND RETRENCH AMERICAN POWER IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. "ALTHOUGH GOP DOES NOT COMPLETELY SHARE THIS VIEW" IT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT IT SINCE IT KNOWS USG WILL ACT

IN ACCORD WITH ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS. ROMULO ASKS FOR
SIMILAR UNDERSTANDING FROM U.S. AND STATES THAT CONTINUED
PRESENCE OF U.S. BASES IN PHILIPPINES REQUIRES A THOROUGH
STUDY. HE CONTENDED THE BASES TEND TO RETARD GOP HOPES
FOR ACCOMMODATION WITH COMMUNIST POWERS IN ASIA AND
DIMINISH GOP CREDIBILITY WITH NON-ALIGNED NATIONS WITH
WHICH IT WANTS STRONGER TIES. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID
GOP WILL PRESENT PROPOSALS IN "DUE COURSE" AND EXPRESSED
BELIEF THEY WILL RECONCILE LONG TERM BEST INTERESTS OF
BOTH SIDES. HE HOPED U.S. WILL ENTERTAIN THEM IN SPIRIT
OF HISTORIC FRIENDSHIP THAT HAS MARKED U.S.-GOP RELATION-
SHIP. ROMULO STATED "NEW FOUNDATION OF STRENGTHENED
MUTUAL RESPECT ENJOINS RECOGNITION OF THE INALIENABLE
REQUIREMENTS OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY OF
WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS MORE THAN AMPLY AWARE." HE
CONCLUDED THAT "I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE
TO REACH UNDERSTANDING ON THIS IMPORTANT PROBLEM."

6. COMMENT: COMPLETE TEXT OF ROMULO'S SPEECH APPEARED
IN PRESS JULY 5 BUT ON INSIDE PAGES SINCE FRONT PAGES
DEVOTED TO PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS ABOUT MUSLIM REBELLION.
THERE IS NOTHING NEW OR STARTLING IN WHAT ROMULO HAD TO SAY
ABOUT BASES. WE PRESUME HIS REMARKS ARE DESIGNED TO GIVE
IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE BUT THEY SUGGEST THERE
HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN GOP INTENTIONS (AS REVEALED TO
ASST. SECY HABIB TO MARCOS) TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS
AROUND OCTOBER. ROMULO'S REMARKS ON "INALIENABLE
REQUIREMENTS OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY" TRACK WITH MARCOS'
COMMENT
TO CODEL MATSUANGA JULY 4TH THAT HE WANTS U.S. TO
RETAIN BASES BUT THEY HAVE TO BE "FILIPPINO" WITHOUT EXTRA
TERRITORIALITY. COMPLETE TEXT OF ROMULO ADDRESSES BEING
POUCHED EA/PHIL. END COMMENT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA09164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0383
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750783/aaaacvoa.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY ROMULO ON U.S.-GOP RELATIONSHIP
TAGS: PFOR, RP, US, (ROMULO, CARLOS P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006